

For immediate release

For more information contact:

December 11, 2003

Cynthia J. Rickman, (614) 645-8795

**City receives \$3 million grant to Clean Up Blighted Industrial Site
New Housing Development Planned Harrison West**

(Columbus) A blighted industrial site is a great step closer to becoming a great neighborhood, through the work of residents, Mayor Coleman and the State of Ohio. The City of Columbus was notified this week that it will receive a \$3 million grant from the Clean Ohio Fund to use on the historically blighted AC Humko site, 525 West First Avenue. The clean up is critical to the future redevelopment of the area with new homes and a riverfront park close to downtown.

“The State made an excellent choice when it decided to invest in an older Columbus neighborhoods by cleaning up brownfield sites like AC Humko,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “This is a perfect example of how we are working together with public and private partners to invest in the rebirth of urban neighborhoods. Cleaning up the AC Humko site offers a great opportunity to build quality new housing and parks that will be as attractive as any in Central Ohio. This is how we continue to grow inward, and balance our regional growth - by offering families great places to live right in the heart of Columbus.”

Royal Tallow Holdings Ltd. plans to redevelop the site with approximately 200 apartments, 60 condominiums and 18 single-family homes. There are also discussions on expanding open, green space along the Olentangy River on the portion of the site to the west.

“The Harrison West Society is thrilled with the fact the grant was issued. We see it as an instrumental step in having a wonderful development a part of this neighborhood. The grant money is truly critical to moving forward and we hope this new development will spur revitalization in adjacent neighborhoods,” said Dave Butler, Harrison West Society president.

In 2000, voters approved a \$400 million statewide bond issue to fund contaminated site clean up and Greenfield preservation under the Clean Ohio Fund Program. Last year, the Department was successful in acquiring a \$3 million cleanup grant for the former Jeffery Mining site in Italian Village. The City was awarded the grant by the Ohio Department of Development.

“We commend Royal Tallow for its efforts to breathe new life into the Harrison West community and for the neighborhood leaders’ work and partnership in the creation of new housing in the Harrison West community,” said Mark Barbash, development director.